

CONGRATULATING MR. CHARLES McDONALD ON THE OCCASION OF HIS RETIREMENT

HON. JO BONNER

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 4, 2006

Mr. BONNER. Mr. Speaker, it is with a tremendous amount of pride that I rise today to honor Mr. Charles McDonald on the occasion of his retirement after serving as president of the Alabama Retail Association for 35 years.

Charlie McDonald has been a devoted advocate for the retailers and business community of Alabama all of his life. Moreover, Charlie is a worker, not a talker, and he knows how to get the job done.

He served the Alabama Council of Association Executives for over three decades. In 1987, he served as chairman of the Alabama Civil Justice Reform Committee, and in 1992, he chaired the Alabamians for Workers' Compensation Reform.

A graduate of the University of Alabama, Charles received the School of Commerce and Business Administration's Retailer of the Millennium Award in 1999. He was also honored by the Food Marketing Institute with the Donald H. MacManus Retail Association Executive of the Year Award, and the American Society of Association Executives awarded him the Grand Award for Management Achievement. This year, the National Retail Federation honored Charles with the prestigious J. Thomas Weyant Lifetime Achievement Award.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating a dedicated community leader and friend to many throughout Alabama.

I know Charles's colleagues, his wife Elaine, his children, and grandchildren, and his many friends from throughout the country join me in praising his accomplishments and extending our heartfelt thanks for his many efforts over the years on behalf of the state of Alabama.

THE PORTER COWBOYS' 5A SOCCER TITLE

HON. SOLOMON P. ORTIZ

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 4, 2006

Mr. ORTIZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the Porter Cowboys, winners of the University Interscholastic League Class 5A boys' soccer state championship. These young players came painstakingly close to defeat, but rose to victory in a 2-1 double-overtime win, earning Brownsville's first 5A state championship, and the pride of South Texas.

The Cowboys came back from a 1-0 deficit against the highly regarded team of Coppell in a match that went to two 10-minute overtime periods. The agility and perseverance of this team gained the recognition of even the rival coach who could not deny the heart the Cowboys put forth.

Less than a minute later, Porter tied up the game 1-1, after Coppell's only goal. The winning shot scored with 3:42 left on the stadium scoreboard, leaving the Cowboys' solid defense squad to protect the lead. The team left it all on the field to earn the Rio Grande Valley's first 5A title in soccer.

With such dedicated players and skilled coaching, it seems only right that their remarkable qualities led them to this year's championship. Their triumph is significant to both the team and their fans because it tells the story of how the road to victory is paved by those who never give up.

The Cowboys' success comes from sheer persistence and true teamwork. These young men have learned the supreme principles of both sports and life. They have experienced that winning is great but success is sweeter when teamwork and faith defy expectations and confront challenge.

These are the young champions: Eric Chapa, Edgar Sanchez, Aldo Sierra, Juan Razo, Jose Alvarado, Peter Ruiz, Victor Vela, Cristian Sierra, Wilfredo Fernandez, Edgar Acuna, Jorge Briones, Jovanny Briones, Alex Lara, Humberto Lopez, Gerardo Herrera, Mario Perez, Gerardo Martinez, Diego Rodriguez, Michael Cedillo, Angel Cardenas, Jesus Sanchez, Miguel Vasquez, Jose Mojica, Jorge Gandara, Abpsa Cardenas, Jose Sosa, and Abel Perez.

The coaches who led them to victory are Luis Zarate, Arturo A. Puig Jr., Pedro Valdez, and Miguel Marroquin.

I congratulate the Porter Cowboys who through their unwavering endurance and determination have brought great pride and joy to all of South Texas. I ask the House of Representatives to join me today in commending this outstanding band of champions who have learned the most important lessons of competition, faith, and commitment. Mr. Speaker, these young men have inspired us and made us exceptionally proud.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. GWEN MOORE

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 4, 2006

Ms. MOORE of Wisconsin. Mr. Speaker, on Tuesday, April 25 and Wednesday, April 26, I was absent for votes on rollcall numbers 100 through 108. Had I been present, I would have voted "Yes" on rollcall number 100, "Yes" on rollcall number 101, "No" on rollcall number 102, "No" on rollcall number 103, "Yes" on rollcall number 104, "Yes" on rollcall number 105, "No" on rollcall number 106, "Yes" on rollcall number 107, and "No" on rollcall number 108.

CONGRATULATING RAYMOND S. ANGELI ON THE OCCASION OF RECEIVING THE B'NAI B'RITH AMERICANISM AWARD

HON. PAUL E. KANJORSKI

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 4, 2006

Mr. KANJORSKI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to ask you and my esteemed colleagues in the House of Representatives to pay tribute to Raymond S. Angeli, of Lackawanna County, Pennsylvania, who will be the recipient of the B'nai B'rith's annual "Americanism Award" on May 7.

The honoree of this prestigious accolade is traditionally selected by past award recipients

and the presidents of various service organizations.

Mr. Angeli, who serves as president of Lackawanna College, was previously a member of the late Pennsylvania Gov. Robert P. Casey's cabinet. He served as secretary of the Department of Community Affairs after having served as Deputy Secretary for Programs at the agency and as Director of its Northeast Regional office.

A veteran of the United States Army, Mr. Angeli retired with the rank of lieutenant colonel. He served two combat tours in Southeast Asia, one as commander of a helicopter company. He also served as a Department of Defense inspector general and as foreign area officer in the U.S. Embassy in Paris, France.

While in military service, Mr. Angeli was awarded the Meritorious Service Medal, the Purple Heart, the Bronze Star, The Air Medal and the Pennsylvania Meritorious Service Medal.

Active in state, regional and community affairs, Mr. Angeli served as chairman of the board of the National Institute for Environmental Renewal, the state's Interagency Task Force on affordable housing and the Pennsylvania Housing and Finance Agency.

Mr. Angeli serves on the boards of the Great Valley Technology Alliance, St. Joseph's Center, Lackawanna Heritage Valley Authority and the Delaware and Lehigh Corridor Authority.

Mr. Angeli is a past recipient of the Boy Scouts of America's Outstanding Citizen Award in Northeastern Pennsylvania, UNICO's Man of the Year Award and the University of Scranton's Distinguished Alumnus Award.

A native of Blakely, Pennsylvania, Mr. Angeli earned a bachelor's degree in political science from the University of Nebraska and a master's degree in education from Scranton University.

Mr. Angeli and his late wife, Nancy, are the parents of two daughters, Ms. Emy Angeli and Mrs. Tracy Barone.

On a personal note, I want to express my own appreciation for the commitment Ray has made to his community. Although I met him during his tenure in Governor Casey's Cabinet, it has only been since my Congressional district expanded to include Scranton that I have had the opportunity to work closely with Ray on several projects. I know that I can count on him to have thought carefully about every project he undertakes and to have determined that it is in the best interest of the Northeastern Pennsylvania. We are indeed fortunate to have him in our community.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in congratulating Mr. Angeli on this auspicious occasion. Mr. Angeli's commitment to service and excellence has earned him the respect and admiration of the greater Scranton community. It is fitting that such an award would be presented to him.

APRIL 5, 2006 LETTER TO SECRETARY RUMSFELD

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 4, 2006

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I sent the following letter to Secretary Rumsfeld requesting